Production of tomatoes developed by America

t2384. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that PURDE University in America and United States Department of Agriculture has developed any species of tomato which contain anti-cancer lifoyin element;

(b) if so, whether Government would make efforts to produce these tomatoes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Researchers from PURDE University and United States Department of Agriculture have claimed development of tomatoes containing enhanced cancer-fighting antioxidant lycopene content.

(b) and (c) Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi and National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, Pusa, New Delhi will make efforts to develop tomato varieties with high lycopene content. However, National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, Pusa, New Delhi is making efforts in obtaining more information about this research work.

Notices by NPPA for overcharging

2385. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Revital is being marketed by Delta, a sister company of Ranbaxy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that M/s Delta have not taken any price approval for this formulation;

(c) whether NPPA has issued notice to Ranbaxy for overcharging for this drug; and

(d) if so, the amount overcharged and the amount recovered?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) Revital is manufatured and sold by M/s Ranbaxy as a food supplement under the Prevention of food Adulteration (P.F.A.) Rules, 1955 and not under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act.

Use of bio-fertilizers

2386. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to undertake concrete steps to promote use of bio-fertilizers, biomanure, micronutrients as a supplement to chemical fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the reasons for closing down operation of eight bio-fertilizer units under Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division (FP & ARD) of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRITAPAN SIKDAR): (a)The Government promotes the soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with biofertilizers and organic manures as integrated nutrient management for maintaining soil health and productivity.

(b) The Government decided on 05.9.2002 to close down Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) including its Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division as it was not found to be techno-economically viable. However, the Namrup units have been demerged from HFC and have been incorporated into a separate entity *viz* Brahamputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. *w.e.f.* 01.04.2002.

Changes in Fertilizer Pricing

2387. DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved pricing for fertilizer industry with retrospective effect, from July 1,1997;

(b) if so, whether such changes in basic parameters would adversely affect viability of a number of fertilizer companies, due to huge recovery